

**Rhode Island State Planning Council**  
**Draft Minutes of Thursday, November 8, 2012 Meeting**  
William E. Powers Building  
Conference Room A  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

**I. ATTENDANCE**

**1. Members Present**

Mr. Richard Licht, Chair	Director, RI Department of Administration
Mr. Kevin Flynn, Secretary	Associate Director, Division of Planning
Ms. Jeanne Boyle	RI LOCAT, President's Designee
Ms. Jeanne Cola	Chair, RI Housing Resources Commission
Ms. Sharon Conard-Wells	West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation
Dr. Michael Fine	Director, RI Department of Health
Mr. Paul McGreevy	Representing, RI Economic Development Corporation
Mr. Scott Millar	Representing Ms. Janet Coit, Director, RIDEM
Mr. L. Vincent Murray	RI LOCAT, Government Official Representative
Mr. Peder Schaefer	Representing Mr. Dan Beardsley, Executive Director, RI LOCAT
Mr. William Sequino	Public Member
Mr. Henry Sherlock	Representing Mr. Stephen Cardi, Cardi Corporation
Mr. Sam Shamoon	Governor's Designee
Mr. Bob Shawver	Representing Mr. Michael Lewis Director, RIDOT
Ms. Janet White-Raymond	Public Member

**2. Members Absent**

Mr. Robert Azar	Providence Department of Planning & Development
Ms. Kelly Mahoney, Vice Chair	Policy Director, Office of the Governor
Mr. Thomas Mullaney	RI Department of Administration, Budget Office
Ms. Anna Prager	Public Member
Mr. John Trevor	Environmental Advocate
Mr. Scott Wolf	Environmental Advocate

**3. Guests**

Mr. Daniel Berman	Federal Highway Administration
Ms. Laurie Brayton	RI Senate Fiscal
Ms. Marion Gold	RI Office of Energy Resources
Mr. Michael Hogan	RI House Policy Office
Mr. Chris Kearns	RI Office of Energy Resources
Ms. Rachel Sholly	URI Outreach Center
Mr. Michael Walker	RI Economic Development Corporation

#### **4. Staff – Division of Planning**

Ms. Melanie Army	Supervising Planner, Statewide Planning Program
Mr. Paul Gonsalves	Senior Planner, Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Nancy Hess	Supervising Planner, Statewide Planning Program
Mr. Jared L. Rhodes, II	Chief, Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Dawn Vittorioso	Executive Assistant, Division of Planning
Mr. Chris Witt	Principal Planner, Statewide Planning Program

## **II. AGENDA ITEMS**

### **1. Call to Order**

Chairman, Licht called the meeting to order on November 8, 2012 at 9:07 a.m.

### **2. Approval of the October 11, 2012 Meeting Minutes – *for vote***

Mr. Licht asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 11, 2012. Mr. Murray moved to approve the minutes of October 11, 2012 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shamon. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

There was none.

### **4. Rhode Island Energy Plan Update – *for discussion***

Chairman Licht introduced Ms. Marion Gold, Director of Energy Resources who along with Mr. Chris Kerns, Office of Energy Resources and Ms. Rachel Sholly, University of Rhode Island (URI) delivered a presentation on how their offices would be partnering with the Statewide Planning Program to update State Guide Plan Element 781, the Rhode Island Energy Plan (See attachment 1). Portions of the presentation where the Council engaged in discussion are summarized as follows:

Mr. McGreevy asked whether there is an opportunity to look at this from a larger regional perspective. Ms. Gold noted that there is a clear recognition that this process will need to be applied across many geographic levels.

Mr. Shawver pointed out that although reducing gas consumption in the state is an admirable goal, it will have the unintended consequence of reducing the funding available for maintenance of transportation infrastructure.

Mr. Schaefer asked if this initiative will work closely with National Grid in addressing who has access to natural gas. Ms. Gold indicated that they are and will continue to work with National Grid in addressing that issue.

Mr. Licht next commented that both Mr. Shawver & Mr. Schaefer raised important issues. He then went on to explain that one of the biggest challenges is predicting the cost of energy. You can predict demand he stated, but it is very hard to predict costs. It depends on so many factors external to RI; both international and technological. He noted that the issue that Mr. Shawver raised is something that we are wrestling with without solving the energy crisis. Everyone understands how this happened historically; however, transportation should not be any different from public safety, education or anything else, and it should be prioritized the same way we prioritize everything else.

Ms. Boyle asked what kind of interaction this process will have with municipalities given land use connections. In response, Ms. Gold said the effort will build on the Renewable Energy Siting Partnership's (RESP) model by holding a monthly municipal stakeholder's meeting. Ms. Boyle suggested that a higher level of effort be considered given the extent of municipal energy use and the impact that municipal government can have. Ms. Gold acknowledged the opportunity to improve and said that the project team would look for additional means. Mr. Schaefer offered to use the League of Cities and Towns as another conduit for facilitating information exchanges.

There being no further questions or comments, Mr. Licht thanked Ms. Gold, Mr. Kearns and Ms. Sholly for their presentation and moved to the next item on the agenda.

#### **5. Sustainable Communities Initiative Update – *for discussion***

Mr. Licht next, introduced Ms. Melanie Army and Mr. Chris Witt who delivered the attached presentation on the Statewide Planning Program's Sustainable Communities Initiative. The following items were discussed amongst the Council and staff throughout the presentation:

Mr. Murray asked if the intent of the expedited scope of work is to feed the next budget and legislative cycles. Mr. Licht indicated that it was.

Dr. Fine noted that there appears to be a need to better integrate the planning for health services. Ms. Army stated that she will coordinate with the Department of Health (DOH) to update the initiative wherever necessary.

Ms. White-Raymond asked if the Council can assume that legislation will come from the expedited scope and that it's an outgrowth of the RIPEC report. Mr. Flynn said yes, one of the specific components is to try and advance the business climate analysis put forward by that report. He then cautioned the Council that any work to generate legislation based on the expedited scope will be the work of others as opposed to work of the consortium. Ms. Boyle noted that it was her understanding that the expedited work would be data gathering and analysis only. Ms. Army said that was correct.

There being no further questions, Mr. Licht thanked Ms. Army and Mr. Witt for their presentation and moved on to the next agenda item.

**6. 2012 Committee Appointment “Slate of Names” – *for introduction***

Mr. Rhodes began by reminding the Council that various memberships to their Technical Committee, Transportation Advisory Committee and RI Geographic Information Systems Executive Committee would soon be expiring. He then introduced the proposed “Slate of Names” for 2013 appointments distributed in the Council’s meeting packets. In concluding, he explained that the item was for introductory purposes only and that a vote on the proposed “Slate of Names” would be docketed for the Council’s next Meeting following a minimum one month long consideration period.

**7. Proposed 2013 Meeting Schedule – *for action***

There being no discussion, Ms. White-Raymond motioned to approve the proposed 2013 meeting schedule as distributed. Mr. Sherlock seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**8. Associate Director’s Report**

Mr. Flynn addressed the following items under the Associate Director’s report:

- 2030 Population projections underway;
- Long Range Transportation Plan Public Hearings;
- Wind Energy Guidelines status;
- Proposed Freeboard Legislation;
- RIAPA Holiday Gathering December 6;
- 2012 Bond Referendums 6 & 7 passed.

**9. Other Business**

There was none.

**10. Adjourn**

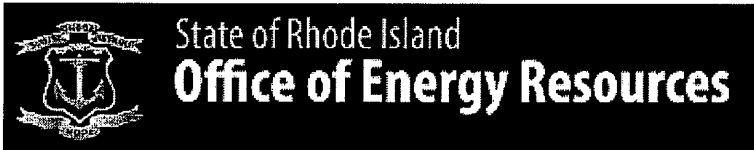
Mr. Shamoon moved to adjourn. Ms. White-Raymond seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 10:28 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Flynn  
Secretary

# Attachment 1



## THE RHODE ISLAND STATE ENERGY PLAN

The State of Rhode Island is actively pursuing the development of a clean energy economy for the purposes of creating jobs and industry growth, mitigating against price volatility and increasing reliability through a diversification of the current energy portfolio, and improving environmental quality by reducing reliance on carbon emitting sources of energy. This effort by the State involves the adoption of policies addressing energy efficiency and system reliability, renewable energy, and petroleum reduction.

The State, however, lacks a coherent, comprehensive, and coordinated vision for providing energy services across all sectors—residential, commercial & industrial, municipal, power generation, and transportation—using safe, reliable, least-cost, environmentally sound, sustainable, and where appropriate, in-State resources. In order to replace the current piecemeal approach with an overarching strategy, the State desires to gather data, set goals, and recommend action regarding near- and long-term plans for managing Rhode Island's energy system. This update of the existing Rhode Island State Energy Plan (State Guide Plan 781) will lay out a path to an energy future consistent with existing policy at the state, regional and federal levels, but that also offers additional visionary steps to enhance the economic, environmental and human wellbeing of the State.

### PROJECT TIMELINE

#### **Phase I: Research & Data Collection (December 2012 – May 2013)**

Gather and synthesize the best available energy data; Set measurable goals based on expert and stakeholder feedback; Design an actionable implementation strategy

#### **Phase II: Preparation of Preliminary Draft Plan (June 2013 – September 2013)**

Distill research developed during Phase I into a Preliminary Draft Plan

#### **Phase III: Technical & Public Review (October 2013 – March 2014)**

Vet Preliminary Draft Plan through a technical and public review process; Adopt Plan as State Guide Plan Element

## RHODE ISLAND STATE ENERGY PLAN OBJECTIVES

**Gather Data:** *Analyze and quantify the amount, cost, supply, and environmental effects of all forms of energy resources—currently used, and potentially available to use—within all sectors in Rhode Island.*

**Set Goals:** *Identify measurable targets for providing energy services using a resource mix that meets a set of criteria advancing the health, environmental, economic, and human wellbeing of the people, communities, and environment of Rhode Island.*

**Recommend Action:** *Design a comprehensive implementation strategy to meet the goals of the Plan through public, private, and individual efforts, consistent with existing policy requirements at the local, state, regional, and federal level.*

## **RHODE ISLAND STATE ENERGY PLAN PROJECT TASKS**

### **BASELINE**

OER will describe how Rhode Island currently provides energy services across all sectors, including an historical analysis of the impact on supply, demand, price, total expenditure, and emissions. OER will catalogue existing energy policies and regulations on the state, regional, and federal levels affecting state energy policy.

### **FORECAST**

OER will examine how a continuation of business-as-usual energy policy would shape the Rhode Island energy system across all sectors out to year 2035. OER will address the impact on supply, demand, price, total expenditure, and emissions if only existing policies remain in place and no measures are taken to change the current resource mix.

### **RESOURCES**

OER will assess potential supply, demand, and infrastructure resources available to the State to meet future energy needs for each sector. OER will reference a wealth of existing studies and analyses, as well as synthesize new available information.

### **GOALS**

OER will spell out quantifiable targets for the aspirational mix of supply and demand resources that could be used to provide energy services out to year 2035 based on input from subject matter experts in the energy field and stakeholder feedback.

### **JUSTIFICATION**

OER will compare the supply, demand, price, total expenditure, and emissions impact of the goals against the business-as-usual forecast to test whether the goals meet the State's criteria of a safe, reliable, least-cost, environmentally sound, and sustainable energy future in all sectors out to year 2035. Goals will be adjusted accordingly to maximize economic, environmental and human wellbeing of the State.

### **ROADMAP**

OER will work with subject matter experts in the energy field and stakeholders to recommend concrete near- and long-term policy options designed to attain the Plan goals, using an integrated approach combining, but not limited to outreach and planning, finance and funding, innovation and expertise, and regulatory policy and structures. This implementation strategy will be consistent with existing policies at the state, regional, and federal levels, but will also offer additional visionary steps to enhance the economic, environmental and human wellbeing of the State.

### **REVISIONS**

OER will outline mechanisms for revising the Plan in order to monitor progress towards goals and reevaluate and adjust recommendations over time

# Attachment 2





# Sustainable Rhode Island

## REGIONAL PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

November 8, 2012

# HUD Sustainable Communities



## *Federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities*

- Federal effort at “silo-busting”
- Supports environmental and economic sustainability

# HUD Sustainable Communities



## SIX LIVABILITY PRINCIPLES

- ☐ Provide more transportation choices.
- ☐ Promote equitable, affordable housing.
- ☐ Enhance economic competitiveness.
- ☐ Support existing communities.
- ☐ Coordinate and leverage federal policies and investment.
- ☐ Value communities and neighborhoods.

# HUD Sustainable Communities



## *Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant*

- ☐ Nationally competitive
- ☐ \$1.9 Million from HUD over three years
- ☐ *Regional Plan for Sustainable Development*

# HUD Sustainable Communities



## CONSORTIUM

- Manages and governs grant activities
- 19 members with ability to expand
- Six State agencies
- Ten municipalities
- Three non-profit organizations



# HUD Sustainable Communities



ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



HOUSING



GROWTH  
CENTERS



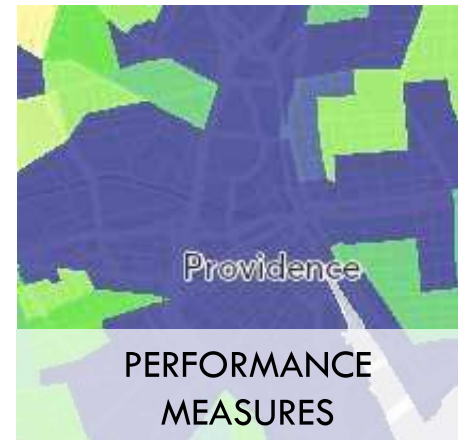
TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE



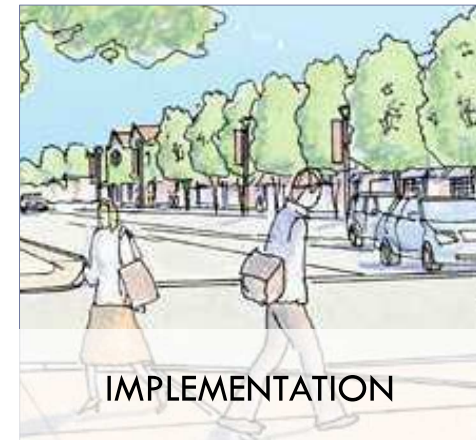
PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION



SOCIAL EQUITY



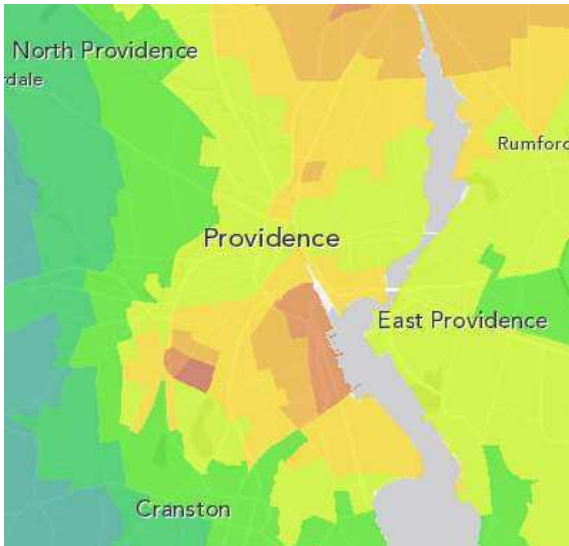
PERFORMANCE  
MEASURES



IMPLEMENTATION

DIVISION OF PLANNING

# HUD Sustainable Communities



## ACTIVITIES TO DATE

- Finalizing request for proposals
- Expedited economic development tasks
- HUD performance measures and eLogic model
- Consortium and committee meetings
- SEAC formation, PolicyLink technical assistance, community outreach

# HUD Sustainable Communities

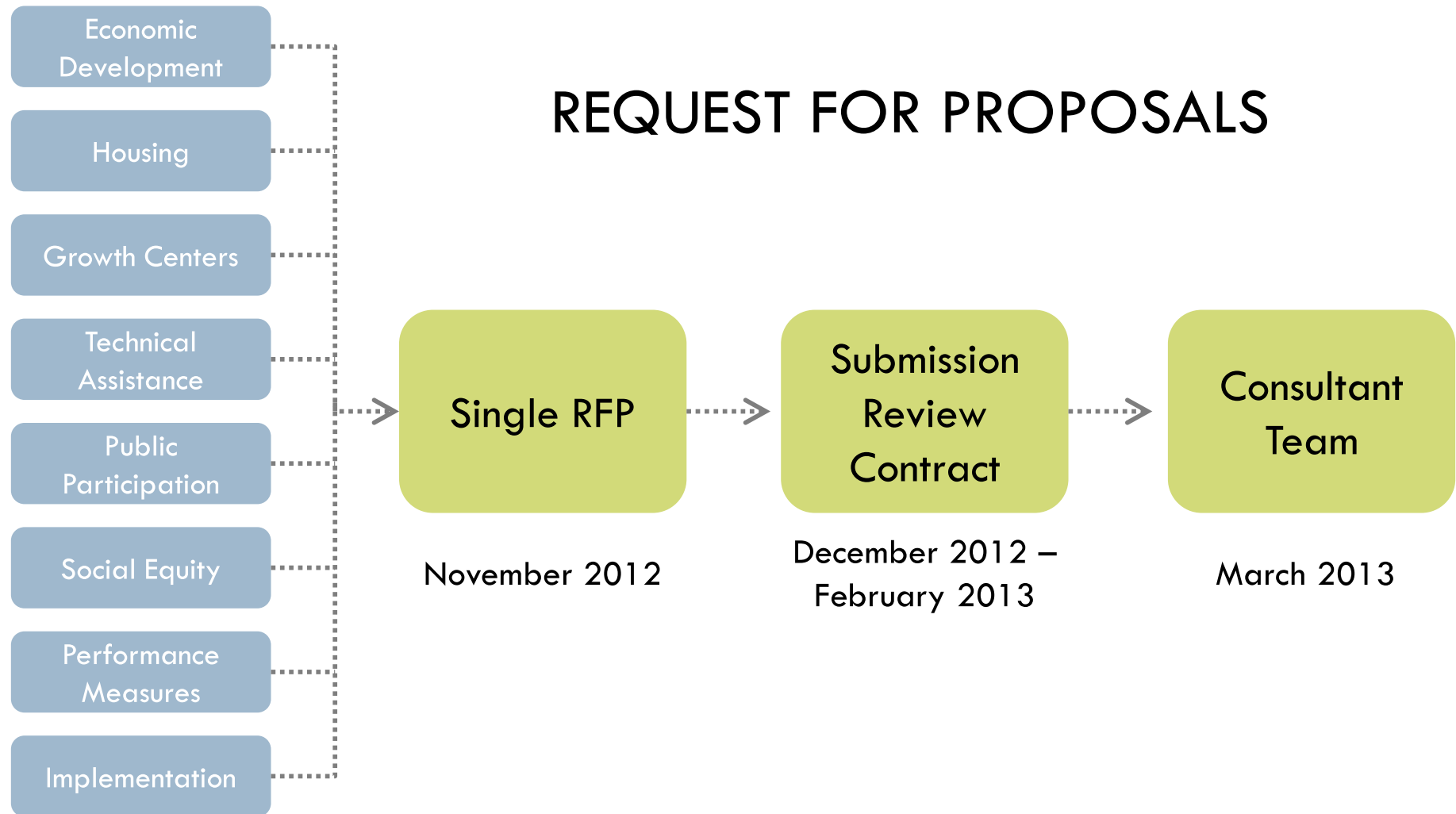
## EXPEDITED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Governor's Policy Office requested that we speed up some tasks.
- Focus on data collection and inventory
- RFP to be issued through RIEDC.
- Expected completion is January 2013
- Will feed into long-term strategy





# HUD Sustainable Communities



DIVISION OF PLANNING

# HUD Sustainable Communities

## SOCIAL EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- ❑ Composed of resident stakeholders and community organizations
- ❑ Integrate social equity into planning processes and outcomes
- ❑ Nomination process and extensive outreach to select members



# HUD Sustainable Communities



## NEXT STEPS

- Expedited economic development RFP
- Joint Sustainable Communities Consortium and Health Advocacy and Equity Commission meeting
- Rhode Island baseline equity report

# HUD Sustainable Communities



## PROJECT SCHEDULE

Year 1

Community engagement and RFP development.

Year 2

Development of plans, public participation and capacity building.

Year 3

Plan adoption, capacity-building and implementation.

# HUD Sustainable Communities

## APPROVAL AND ADOPTION PROCESS



# HUD Sustainable Communities

## For More Information or to Get Involved

- Melanie Jewett Army, AICP  
Supervising Planner  
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- Chris Witt, Principal Planner  
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Sustainable Communities Page of the Division of Planning Website:

<http://www.planning.ri.gov/misc/communities/sustainable.html>